

NEWS RELEASE

Task Force Hope

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mississippi Recovery Field Office
<http://www.mvd.usace.army.mil/hurricane/chr.php>
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA NOTE: The web site shown has lots of Corps Katrina related information and is growing daily. Please add to your hurricane link pages.

**Operation Blue Roof adds Gautier, Diamond Head,
Hattiesburg, Bay St. Louis, Camp Shelby Center**
September 14, 2005 1400 HRS CST

GULFPORT, MISS ... Operation Blue Roof in Mississippi has already received about one-third of the anticipated 23,000 requests expected for temporary roof repairs under the FEMA program.

The 140 crews under the Army Corps of Engineers repaired over 500 roofs yesterday and the pace expected to pick up significantly when a second contract team comes online today.

Nineteen Mississippi Sign Up Centers are ready to help residents as follows:

- Camp Shelby: Base personnel only, due to security restrictions
- Bay St. Louis: 2nd Street Elementary School
- Diamond Head: Country Club
- Hattiesburg: Parkway United Methodist Church, 2420 Hardy St.
- Gautier: Singing River Mall

Mississippi residents or their agents (e.g., a friend or neighbor) may file in any county where Sign Up Centers are active, regardless of your county of residence, as long as the county qualifies for this program.

Additional information is available on the Mississippi Response web site at **www.mvd.usace.army.mil**

Operation Blue Roof is a priority mission managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The program provides assistance to storm victims in disaster areas through the installation of rolled plastic sheeting on damaged roofs, thereby helping to protect property and allowing residents to remain in their homes.

Residents will need to complete a Right of Entry Form to allow Corps Federal roofing teams to assess their property and assign the work to a Blue Roof contractor.

Disaster experience has proven that it is more efficient for residents to come to a servicing center rather than have limited disaster workers go door to door when only 10% of home owners will actually be in the home.

Corps roofing team members will go to the property, do a damage and eligibility assessment, and give the roofing contractor a tasking order. Property owners should

expect work within 14 days of the request.

Corps roofing team members will have proper identification and uniforms. Citizens should not hesitate to ask persons approaching their property for proper identification.

Operation Blue Roof Tips

- The Mississippi central call-in number is open at 228-701-0588
- Mississippi residents can use any Sign Up Center, regardless of your home county
- Building must be a primary residence, not recreational or commercial
- Facilities such as churches used as shelters qualify
- Using available “self help” programs does not disqualify you from OBR
- Shingled and metal roofs qualify; flat roofs do not.
- Garages only qualify if they have become a primary living space
- Homes must be structural sound and have 50% living space
- Roof and/or truss damage must be less than 50 %
- Truss and sheathing will be replaced as needed for qualified structures
- The order of your request may not match the order of your response
- In some cases, response may be 30 days or longer
- Absentee property owners can fax requests to the home county EOC
- Download the ROE form from our web site or contact your county EOC
- Please don't call to check on status of your request. That information is not readily available and slows response to others.